

Message Text

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64

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 ACDA-19 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-13

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 AGR-20 FDRE-00

SR-02 ORM-03 IGA-02 HEW-08 INT-08 COME-00 SCI-06

SCS-03 SCA-01 RSR-01 /197 W

----- 110940

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7774

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: DROUGHT RELIEF MALI REFUGEE CAMPS REGION VI

REF: STATE 169586

1. EMBOFF MET WITH SEC GEN MALI RED CROSS KONE AND LICROSS REP GAYARD DISCUSS NUMBER OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DROUGHT, WHAT TYPE AND QUANTITY DROUGHT RELIEF NEEDED, ETC. KONE TALKED IN TERMS OF AIDING ENTIRE POPULATION VI REGION PLUS OTHER SEVERELY AFFECTED AREAS (APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION PEOPLE). HE SUBMITTED LENGTHY LIST OF RELIEF SUPPLIES INCLUDING FOOD FOR CHILDREN, MEDICINES, CLOTHES, BLANKETS, AND TENTS. LIST DID NOT GIVE QUANTITIES NEEDED, ALTHOUGH HE ASKED FOR SIX MONTH SUPPLY. HE ADDED THAT GOM GAVE MALI RED CROSS AUTHORITY TO DECIDE DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS AS WELL AS TO DISTRIBUTE SUPPLIES IN VI REGION. GAYARD'S ONLY REAL IMPUT WAS TO STRESS AUTONOMOUS NATURE OF RED CROSS ORGANIZATION BOTH IN MALI AND ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES MALI RED CROSS DEMANDS SHOULD NOT BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED

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FOR FOLLOWING REASONS. FIRST, CONTRARY

TO KONE'S CLAIMS, MALI RED CROSS IS NOT AUTONOMOUS RE DROUGHT RELIEF IN MALI. RED CROSS HERE DOES DISTRIBUTE SUPPLIES ON RECEIPT OF ORDERS FROM NATIONAL DROUGHT COMMITTEE UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP MIN DEFENSE DOUKARA. FOR EXAMPLE, MULTIVITAMINS AIRLIFTED LAST ROTATION C-130 FROM U.S. COULD NOT BE SENT DIRECTLY TIMBUCTU BUT WERE HANDED OVER TO MIN DEFENSE BAMAKO FOR EVENTUAL DISTRIBUTION VI REGION. MALI AND RED CROSS LIST WHICH WAS NOT CLEARED BY MIN DEF THUS LACKS CREDIBILITY. SECOND, MALI RED CROSS, AND FOR THAT MATTER, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND ENTIRE MALIAN RELIEF EFFORT DOES NOT HAVE CAPABILITY TO ASSIST ONE MILLION PEOPLE OR EVEN A FRACTION OF THIS NUMBER. THIRD, LIST SUBMITTED, WHILE COMPREHENSIVE, INCLUDES MANY ITEMS WHICH GOM HAS ALREADY RECEIVED OR WILL RECEIVE IN LARGE QUANTITIES. THESE INCLUDE POWDERED MILK, CSM, AND ANTIBIOTICS. GIVEN RUDIMENTARY DISTRIBUTION AND TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE, FEAR THAT PERISHABLE MEDICINES WHICH ARE NOT NOW NEEDED WOULD PILE UP IN BAMAKO, AND WOULD LATER HAVE TO BE DESTROYED ONCE THEY REACH EXPIRATION DATE. FOR EXAMPLE NUTRITIONIST MARK LAPOINTE OBSERVED THOUSANDS OF DOSES MEASLES VACCINE LYING HOT SUN TIMBUCTU IN DISPENSARY, AND GOM DISPENSARY OFFICER CLAIMED EARLIER HE HAD NO MEASLES VACCINE.

3. WHILE MALI IS BEING SATURATED WITH SOME TYPES OF DROUGHT RELIEF SUPPLIES, OTHERS, NOT BEING RECEIVED ARE NEEDED. THESE INCLUDE, VITAMINS, BANDAGES, CHILDREN' CLOTHES, BPANKETS AND TENTS. ALSO MOST CRITICAL AREA OF NEED IS REFUGEE CAMPS. ESTIMATE POPULATION OF ALL CAMPS IN VI REGION WILL TOTAL 50,000 OF WHICH 15,000 WILL BE CHILDREN. BELIEVE THAT GOM WITH ASSISTANCE OF MALI RED CROSS CAN EFFECTIVELY SERVE THIS NUMBER SINCE RELIEF OPERATION TO NOMAD CAMPS HAS ALREADY BEEN ORGANIZED.

4. RECOMMENDATION. THAT DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS BE USED TO PURCHASE FOLLOWING COMMODITIES:
15,000 BLANKETS
CLOTHES (CHILDREN'S SIZE)
GAUZE BANDAGES
VITAMINS (2.5 - 3.0 MILLION)
CANVAS (TO CONSTRUCT OPEN AIR TENTS)
WHILE CANNOT GUARANTEE GOM CONCURRENCE EMBASSY WILL SUGGEST TO GOM THAT ABOVE COMMODITIES BE DISTRIBUTED OVER NEXT SIX MONTHS
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TO POPULATION ESPECIALLY CHILDREN OF REFUGEE CAMPS IN VI REGION THROUGH MALI RED CROSS.
KUNIHOLM

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